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PTQ8616

RELEASED IN PART
B7(C), B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)PAGE 01 BUENOS 00775 01 OF 03 061721Z
ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	A-00	CCO-00	CG-00	CIAE-00
	COME-00	CTME-00	INL-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	WHA-00	PERC-00
	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-00	OIGO-00	FAAE-00	VC-00
	FRB-00	SSA-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	IO-00	L-00
	CAC-00	VCE-00	M-00	AC-01	NEA-00	DCP-01	NRCE-00
	NSAE-00	OCS-03	OIC-02	OMB-01	DHS-00	OPIC-01	PA-00
	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	STR-00
	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-01
	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/011W			

-----403FD7 061722Z /38

O 061705Z MAR 03
 FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0194
 INFO WESTERN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS DIPL POSTS IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
 DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
 DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY
 FBI WASHDC PRIORITY
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 WHITE HOUSE WASHDC PRIORITY
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 C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BUENOS AIRES 000775

STATE FOR WHA/BSC, WHA/EPSC, EB/IFD/OMA
 NSC FOR JOANNA WALLACE AND JASON SINGER
 TREASURY FOR IA NANCY LEE, HEIDI CRUZ, BILL BLOCK, JAMES
 JOHN AND
 PASS FED BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR PATRICE ROBITAILLE
 USCINCSO FOR POLAD
 FBI FOR

B7(C)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/07/2013
 TAGS: PTER, PGOV, PHUM, AR
 SUBJECT: PROGRESS IN AMIA INVESTIGATION DEVELOPMENTS LEAD
 TO STIFF IRANIAN PROTEST

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
 CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
 DECLASSIFY AFTER: 5 MAR 2023
 DATE/CASE ID: 17 NOV 2009 200705645

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REF: A. BUENOS AIRES 3405

B. BUENOS AIRES 3904

CLASSIFIED BY: DCM MILTON DRUCKER. REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

1. (C) SUMMARY: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON THE AMIA BOMBING INVESTIGATION INCLUDE THE SUBMISSION TO PRESIDENT DUHALDE AND AMIA INVESTIGATING JUDGE GALEANO OF THE SECRETARIAT OF INTELLIGENCE (SIDE) SECRET REPORT ON THE 1994 BOMBING, AS WELL AS A FEBRUARY 20 REQUEST BY AMIA PROSECUTORS FOR INTERNATIONAL ARREST WARRANTS FOR ROUGHLY TWO DOZEN SUSPECTS IN THE BOMBING, INCLUDING IRANIAN DIPLOMATS, RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL OFFICIALS. THE SIDE REPORT POINTS CLEARLY TO IRANIAN GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN THE BOMBING. IN RESPONSE TO THE PROSECUTORS' REQUESTS FOR ARREST WARRANTS, THE IRANIAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES MADE A FORMAL COMPLAINT TO THE MFA AND THREATENED TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA.

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IRANIAN OFFICIALS HAVE LONG BEEN SUSPECTED OF MASTERMINDING THE ATTACK ON THE AMIA COMMUNITY CENTER AND THE 1992 BOMBING OF THE EMBASSY OF ISRAEL IN BUENOS AIRES. HOWEVER, UNTIL THESE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS, THERE HAD BEEN LITTLE PUBLIC EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS IN THE INVESTIGATION. END SUMMARY

INTELLIGENCE SECRETARIAT REPORT SPURS ACTION

2. (C) RECENT MONTHS HAVE SEEN TWO SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE 1994 BOMBING OF THE BUENOS AIRES AMIA JEWISH CULTURAL CENTER. ON JANUARY 22 THE SECRETARIAT OF INTELLIGENCE (SIDE) DELIVERED TO PRESIDENT DUHALDE AND AMIA INVESTIGATING JUDGE JUAN JOSE GALEANO, ITS JUST COMPLETED SECRET REPORT ON ITS INVESTIGATION OF THE AMIA BOMBING.

IT INCLUDES INFORMATION ONLY ON THE INTERNATIONAL ANGLE, NOT THE LOCAL CONNECTION, WHICH IS THE PRIMARY TOPIC OF THE AMIA TRIAL (ONGOING SINCE SEPTEMBER 2001).

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REQUEST FOR ARREST WARRANTS FOR GOI OFFICIALS

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3. (C) ON FEBRUARY 20 PROSECUTORS INVOLVED IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE AMIA BOMBING ASKED THAT AMIA INVESTIGATING JUDGE GALEANO REQUEST INTERNATIONAL ARREST WARRANTS FOR AROUND TWO DOZEN SUSPECTS (PRESS ACCOUNTS MENTION BOTH 27 AND 22 SUSPECTS), MANY OF THEM IRANIAN DIPLOMATS AND SENIOR GOI RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL LEADERS, INCLUDING THE COUNTRY'S SPIRITUAL LEADER AYATOLLAH KHAMEINEI. THE INDIVIDUALS ARE BELIEVED TO BE THOSE NAMED IN THE SIDE REPORT ISSUED ON JANUARY 22 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] PRESS ACCOUNTS ON THE PROSECUTORS' REQUESTS NAME LEBANESE HIZBOLLAH FIGURE IMAD MUGNIEH AND TRI-BORDER FINANCIER ASSAD AHMAD BARAKAT, WHO IS UNDER DETENTION IN BRAZIL PURSUANT TO A REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION BY PARAGUAY. BOTH OF THESE WERE NAMED IN THE SIDE REPORT. GALEANO MUST DECIDE NOW WHETHER TO ACCEPT OR DENY THE PROSECUTORS REQUESTS FOR ARREST WARRANTS.

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GOI DENIES ACCUSATIONS

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ACTION SCT-00

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	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-00	OIGO-00	FAAE-00	VC-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0195
INFO WESTERN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS DIPL POSTS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 BUENOS AIRES 000775

STATE FOR WHA/BSC, WHA/EPSC, EB/IFD/OMA
NSC FOR JOANNA WALLACE AND JASON SINGER
TREASURY FOR IA NANCY LEE, HEIDI CRUZ, BILL BLOCK, JAMES
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B1

5. (U) ON FEBRUARY 24, THE LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT AN
IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN REJECTED THE CHARGES OF
GOI INVOLVEMENT WITH THE AMIA BOMBING, SAYING: "WE HAVE
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STATED MANY TIMES THAT WE HAD NO ROLE IN WHAT HAPPENED. CERTAIN CIRCLES TRY TO MISLEAD PUBLIC OPINION WITH RESPECT TO IRAN AND TRY TO CREATE A NEGATIVE ATMOSPHERE FOR US." THE BBC REPORTED THAT THE IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY CALLED IN THE ARGENTINE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES TO DEMAND "AN APPROPRIATE EXPLANATION" FROM THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT. QUOTING THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY, THE ACCOUNT SAYS THE ARGENTINE CHARGE RESPONDED THAT HE "REGRETTE" THE NEWSPAPER REPORTS AND THAT "THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO DEVELOP EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN" (SEE ALSO REF. B).

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 HISTORY AND COMMENT

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	NSAE-00	OCS-03	OIC-02	OMB-01	DHS-00	OPIC-01	PA-00
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USCINCSO FOR POLAD
FBI FOR [REDACTED]

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8. (C) IRANIAN OFFICIALS HAVE LONG BEEN SUSPECTED OF
MASTERMINDING THE ATTACK ON THE AMIA COMMUNITY CENTER AND THE
1992 BOMBING OF THE EMBASSY OF ISRAEL HERE. HOWEVER, UNTIL
THE LAST SIX MONTHS, THERE HAD BEEN LITTLE PUBLIC EVIDENCE OF
PROGRESS IN THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE INTERNATIONAL
CONNECTIONS BELIEVED BEHIND THE AMIA ATTACK. THE RECENT
PROGRESS COMES IN THE WAKE OF A PRESIDENTIAL ORDER TO SIDE TO
MAKE THE INVESTIGATION A TOP PRIORITY AND BRING IT TO A CLOSE
AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, [REDACTED]

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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
HAS BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE AN IMPORTANT PART OF
ACHIEVING JUSTICE IN THE JULY 1994 TERRORIST ATTACK THAT LEFT
85 DEAD.
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